

ALL IN COLOUR - MAKES LEARNING A JOY

Once Upon a Time

EVERY WEDNESDAY

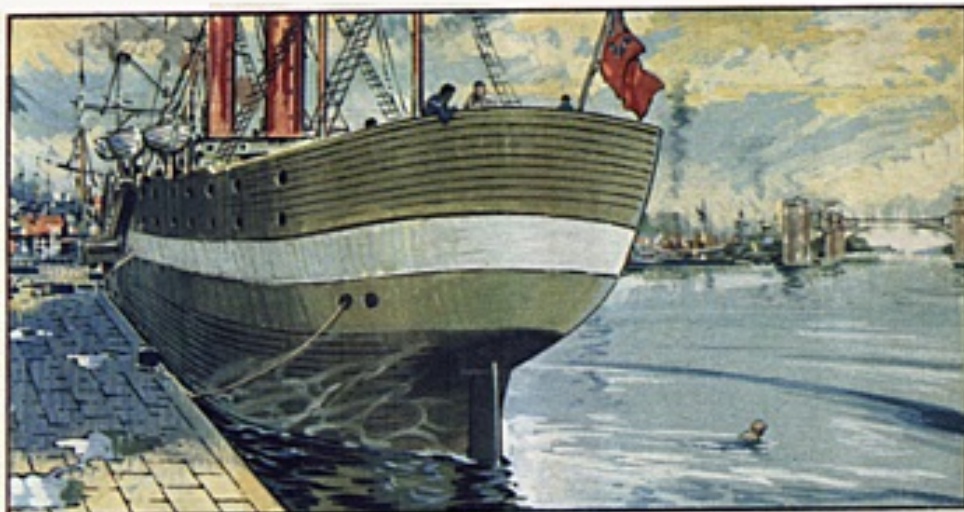
No. 55 • 28th February 1970

PRICE 1/3

The Fairy Child—a lovely
picture story for you inside.



The Water Babies



Tom, the brave little chimney-sweep, finds himself turned into a water baby. Because he is naughty, the other water babies are not allowed to play with him. Tom tries to find them and swims down a river to the sea . . .

1. Day after day Tom travelled on. He swam near ships and saw sailors on the decks, so he ducked under again, for he was terribly afraid of being caught by the men and turned into a chimney-sweep once more. What Tom did not know was that the water fairies were always near him, shutting the sailors' eyes so that they did not see him. Poor little fellow, it was a weary journey for him. More than once he longed to be back in the upper parts of the stream, playing with the trout, but he did not stop.



2. Tom had always been a brave little lad, who never knew when he was beaten. On and on he went, until he saw, a long way off, a red buoy. Tom had never been to sea before and knew nothing about it. He only knew that the water had turned salty all round him. A change came over him. He felt strong and light. The red buoy was in sight, dancing in the open sea, and to the buoy he was determined to go as fast as he could.



3. Tom did not care that the tide was against him. He passed great shoals of fish called bass and mullet, leaping and rushing after the shrimps, but he took no notice of them and they took no notice of him, for they were so busy chasing after their food. Most living things in the sea feed on other living things, you know.



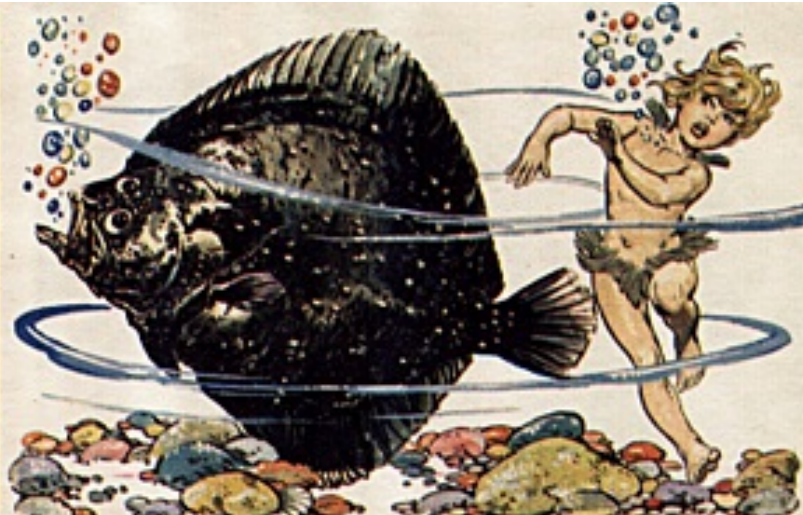
4. Once he came face to face with a great black shining seal. "How do you do, sir," said Tom. "What a beautiful place the sea is." The old seal looked at him with his soft, sleepy eyes. "Good day to you, my little man," he said. "Are you looking for your brothers and sisters? I passed them all at play outside." "Did you?" said Tom.



5. He thanked the seal very much. "Now I shall have someone to play with at last," said Tom. He swam to the buoy and got up on it, quite out of breath. He sat and looked around for water babies, but there were none to be seen. Tom stared and stared all round him. He saw seagulls hovering over him like huge white dragonflies. If only he could have seen a water baby, he would have been very, very happy.



6. After a while he jumped off the buoy and swam around in search of the water babies, but all in vain. Sometimes he thought he heard them laughing, but it was only the laughter of the rippling sea. Then sometimes he thought he saw them on the bottom, but it was only white and pink sea shells. Once, he was sure he had found one, for he saw two bright eyes peeping at him out of the sand.

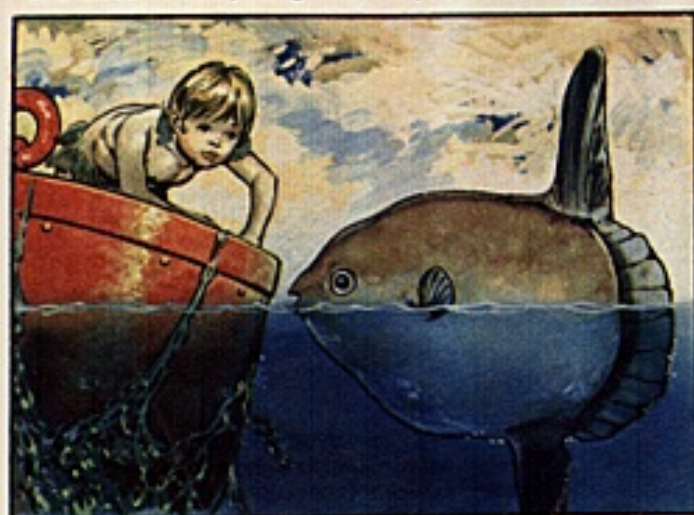


7. Tom began to scrape away the sand, saying: "Don't hide. I do want someone to play with so much." Out jumped a great flatfish and it flopped away along the bottom, almost knocking poor Tom over. "How dare you disturb me, you horrid boy?" said the fish. "I lie in the sand with only my eyes showing so that others will not see me and now you have spoilt my rest. Please go away!"

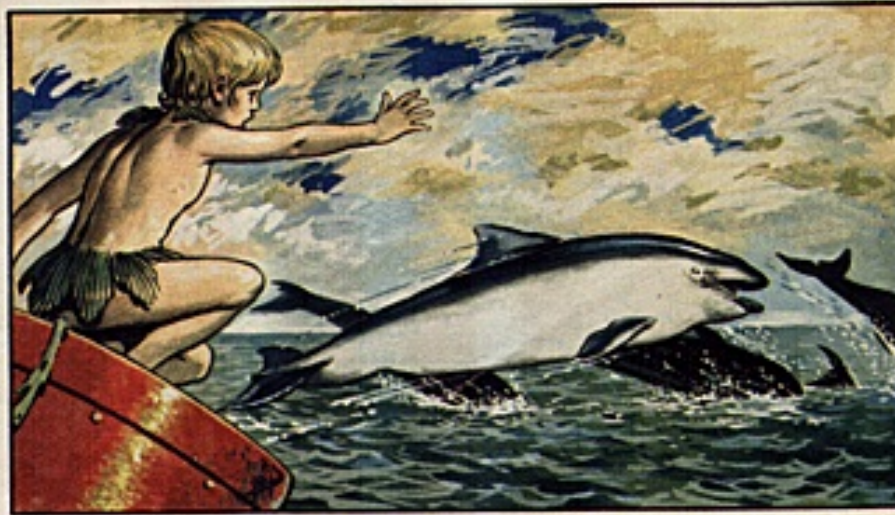


8. Poor Tom climbed back on the buoy and cried salt tears from sheer disappointment because he had found no water babies to play with. He sat upon the buoy for many long days, looking out to sea and wondering when the other water babies would come, and yet they never came. It seemed hard to him to have come all this way and faced so many dangers—and yet to find no other water babies.

9. He began to ask all the strange things which came in from the outside sea if they had seen any. Some said "Yes," and some said nothing at all. He asked the bass and mullet, but they were greedy fish and so intent on catching shrimps to eat that they did not care to answer him a word. Tom saw all these sea creatures passing by, but no water babies. He grew sadder and sadder.



10. Then one day came a great lazy sunfish and when Tom questioned him he answered in a squeaky voice, "Water babies? I'm sure I don't know. I've lost my own way. Don't talk to me." And he swam away.



11. Next there came a shoal of porpoises, rolling as they went by and all quite smooth and shiny, because the water fairies polish them every morning. Tom took courage to speak to them, but all they answered was "Hush, hush, hush," as they swished through the water. Poor Tom! He could not find a water baby.

See what happens to Tom next week in this lovely "Water Babies" story.



1. Animals can make sounds, but they cannot talk, so they have other ways of showing their feelings. When angry, a **Tiger** makes a fierce face and shows its teeth and the white spots on the back of its ears.



2. The squeals, grunts, roars and growls show animals' feelings but there are other signs as well. When **Warthogs** are alarmed, they hold their long tails straight upright, as stiff as poles.



All Sorts of Animals



5. When **Elephant Seals** come ashore, the male warns others off by rearing up. It also has a short, elephant-like trunk on its nose, from which it gets its name, which it blows up. It looks very fierce.



6. When it is annoyed, the **Horse** warns enemies to keep away by stretching out its neck, laying back its ears flat against its head and drawing back its lips to show its teeth.



3. Skunks cannot harm other animals but they can defend themselves by squirting an evil-smelling liquid. But first the Skunk gives a warning, by fluffing out its tail and stamping hard on the ground.



4. When it is annoyed and wants to warn intruders to keep away, the Hippopotamus opens its mouth wide to show its huge teeth. One bite from these can chop a canoe in two, so it is a warning to heed.

Showing Their Feelings



7. When danger threatens, the Beaver warns its companions by slapping its broad, flat tail on the surface of the water. This makes a noise like a pistol shot, which can be heard easily by the others.



8. When a Gorilla is alarmed or angry it stands up straight and thumps its big chest with its hands. This is not always a sign that the animal is angry, for sometimes it does this when it wants to show off.



BRER RABBIT

Brer Rabbit and the cherries. By Barbara Hayes.

ONCE upon a time, Brer Rabbit was lickety-clipping along the road, when he heard some mighty funny noises coming from the direction of the house of Mr. Man.

BANG! BANG! Squawk-squawk-squawk!

So, being of a curious nature, Brer Rabbit kicked up his heels and ran until he came to Mr. Man's garden.

Then he poked his inquisitive little nose through the fence and watched. Presently, he saw Mr. Man with his gun.

BANG! BANG! Mr. Man fired his gun into the air.

Squawk! Squawk! Squawk! A flock of birds rose up out of Mr. Man's cherry tree.

For a little while there was peace, then gradually the birds flew back into the tree and started eating the cherries as hard as they could go.

Then Mr. Man would dash out from his house again and fire his gun again. And all the birds would fly away for a while.

It was then that Brer Rabbit called out to Mr. Man in a mighty friendly voice :

"Howdy, Mr. Man, sir."

And Mr. Man replied : "Howdy !"

"I see you're having trouble with those birds, Mr. Man," said Brer Rabbit. "They're eating all your cherries, Mr. Man."

"You say right, Brer Rabbit."

"And you've got lots of important jobs you'd rather do than stay here scaring off birds, Mr. Man."

"You say right again, Brer Rabbit," agreed Mr. Man.

"Then let me stay here and scare the birds off for you, Mr. Man. I've nothing important to do. Nothing in the whole wide world," said Brer Rabbit.

Then Mr. Man roared with laughter. "A fine fool you must think I am, Brer Rabbit. Why, if I let you in here to guard the cherries, you would scare the birds away all right, but then you would eat the cherries yourself."

But Brer Rabbit said :

"I promise that not a cherry shall pass my lips. Let me into your garden and I will guard your cherries, just as if they were my own little baby rabs."

So then Mr. Man, who really did have a lot of other work to do, let Brer Rabbit into the garden and said :

"I shall come back in an hour and if you have eaten any cherries, I shall be able to tell by the stains on your mouth and it will be the worse for you."

So off went Mr. Man and Brer Rabbit fetched a big rattle from the house and kept it turning and making such a mighty big noise that no birds dared come near.

In an hour's time back came Mr. Man.

He looked at the cherry tree and the cherries were still there.

He looked at Brer Rabbit's mouth and he saw no cherry stains.

Then Mr. Man said : "I have got to be away all afternoon. If you keep the birds off the cherries I will give you some money. But if I come back and find any cherry stains on your lips, it will be the worse for you."

Then Mr. Man went off and Brer Rabbit kept waving the rattle and scaring the birds away.

And when Mr. Man came back, he looked at the cherry tree and the cherries were still there.

He looked at Brer Rabbit's mouth and he saw no cherry stains.

So Mr. Man gave Brer Rabbit some money and let him out of the garden and Brer Rabbit clipped off home.

Then Mr. Man went to get a lettuce for his tea.

But all the lettuces had gone. Brer Rabbit had eaten them.

"You didn't say anything about not eating any *lettuces*," laughed naughty Brer Rabbit as he disappeared over the hill.

My ! Was Mr. Man angry !

"That tricky rabbit has fooled me again," he shouted.

There will be another Brer Rabbit story next week.



TEA



The green leaves are spread out on "withering tables", where they are left to wither and dry for a time. Then they are crushed between rollers and put in the firing room, where hot air dries them. After that, they are ready to be sorted, packed and shipped overseas. Tea was first brought to Europe only 300 years ago, although it had been drunk for hundreds of years in Asia, but it soon became a very popular drink.

It takes hundreds of dried leaves to make a pound of tea. The leaves come from evergreen bushes which grow in many parts of Asia. They are planted in rows and kept pruned, so that they only grow about three feet high. This makes the pickers' work much easier. They walk along the rows between the trees, picking the buds and very young leaves, which they put into their baskets. This is done several times a season. The leaves are taken back to the factory.



FAMOUS NAMES

Interesting facts about people, things and happenings in our world.



1. **Romulus and Remus.** There is a story about twin boys named Romulus and Remus who were thrown into the River Tiber, in Italy. They were saved by a she-wolf who brought them up in a cave with her own cubs. When they were men Romulus killed his brother Remus, but afterwards built a city which is now called Rome.



2. **Blondel.** Born in France in the province of Picardy about 800 years ago, Blondel became a friend of King Richard of England. They liked to compose songs together, and they say that Blondel discovered where King Richard was imprisoned, in the Castle of Durrenstein, by singing one of the songs outside the cell window.



3. **Cutty Sark.** One of the famous clipper ships which carried cargoes of wool from Australia to England, the Cutty Sark was built at Dumbarton on the Scottish River Clyde in 1876. Fast sailing ships like this used to race each other and on one trip from Australia the Cutty Sark beat her rivals by seventeen days.



4. **The Charge of the Light Brigade.** On October 25th, in the year 1854, the famous Light Brigade were ordered to make a charge and attack the Russians at Balaklava. The Russians had too many heavy guns for the mounted soldiers. Though the attack lasted only twenty minutes, the Light Brigade lost all but 195 men.

This is a Memory Test. When you have read the story turn to page 16 and try to answer the questions, to see how good your memory is.

Signs of the Zodiac

PISCES

(February 20th — March 20th)

THE second sign of the Zodiac is Pisces (say "Pie-sees") and it affects persons whose birthday falls between February 20th and March 20th. Each Zodiac Sign has an interesting story and this is the one about Pisces:

The beautiful goddess Aphrodite had a son named Eros, the well-known little god of Love, who always carried with him a bow and arrow. One day, when they were by the River Euphrates, there was a great rumbling and roaring noise. A mountain split open, shooting out fire and smoke like a volcano, and from the middle of it came an angry giant called Typhon. He wanted to capture Eros and his mother, but to save themselves they jumped into the water and changed into two fish. They hid from Typhon, who was unable to find them. To mark this escape the constellation of Pisces was created in the stars in the sky. It is always shown as two fish tied together by their tails with a long cord. You can see it outlined in blue in the picture.

CHILDREN OF TODAY
AND TOMORROW
WILL ENJOY
THE STORIES AND PICTURES
in
ONCE UPON A TIME
over and over again
Keep your copies in a special
binder
EASY FOR READING
EASY FOR STORING
Price 17/6d
(including post and packing)

from
Subscription Dept.,
Once Upon A Time,
Berrows House,
Hylton Road, Worcester.

These Binders are specially made to hold weekly copies of "Once Upon A Time". They are in a very attractive red colour, with gold titles. Each Binder holds 26 copies, which can easily be put in week by week, by the famous Easibind method. It provides a wonderful means of keeping your copies clean and tidy—and you can read them again and again. Back Numbers of ONCE UPON A TIME can be obtained for 1/6d. each (including postage) from City Magazines, Aldwych House, London, W.C.1.





The Fairy Child



1. One morning a washerwoman, who was washing clothes in the river, found a tiny baby girl, fast asleep on a lily-leaf. The washerwoman was amazed, for she had never seen anyone so tiny. There was no one in sight and the baby did not seem to belong to anyone, so the washerwoman decided to take her home and look after her. She called the baby Tania.



2. Tania grew into a very pretty, sweet-natured child, but she was so tiny that when she spoke the other children had to bend down to listen to her. When she went to school, the desks and chairs were too tall for her, the pencils too big for her to hold, and when she tried to join in the games, the other children cried, "You are too tiny to play, Tania. You will be hurt."



3. Tania often felt very lonely and out of things and it made her very sad, even though everyone tried hard to be kind to her. Sometimes she would go off and sit all by herself on the lily-leaf and imagine how nice it would be to have playmates of her own size. Then, one day, the lily-leaf broke loose and began to float away downstream, with Tania on it.



4. "Help!" cried Tania, but there was no one to hear her cry. The swift current in the middle of the river caught the lily-leaf and carried it along faster and faster, whirling it round until poor Tania was quite dizzy. Soon she had left the familiar countryside where she lived far behind her. "Oh, will no one help me?" she cried in despair. Tania felt so alone and was very, very frightened.



5. Just then the lily-leaf passed under the drooping branches of a willow tree and Tania saw a rope of flowers being lowered to her. It was only a daisy chain, but she was so tiny that it was quite strong enough to hold her. She held on to it and to her surprise she found herself being pulled right up into the weeping willow tree.



6. There, an even bigger surprise awaited her. Two tiny people no bigger than herself were holding the rope. "Oh," she cried happily. "We are the same size." "Of course we are," smiled the tiny people. "We are all fairies. But why haven't you been fitted with wings? You could have flown off the lily-leaf yourself if you had had your wings."



7. Tania told them how she had been found and brought up by the washerwoman and nobody knew where she had come from. "Why, you must be a lost fairy child," the two tiny people told her. "We will take you back to where you belong." "Oh, please do," cried Tania. "I have longed to find people the same size to live with."



8. The two fairies took Tania back to Fairyland and there were lots of fairies and elves and gnomes and sprites, all the same size as Tania. She was so pleased, and when she had been fitted with a pair of wings she was as happy as could be, but she never forgot the kind washerwoman and often went back to visit her in her old home.



Beautiful Paintings

The sea is always restless and moving and this lovely picture by artist K. E. Olszewski into it for signs of a fish, ready to dive in an instant. It would make a wonderful picture seems to come to life as you look at it. The sea-birds soar over the sunlit water, peering to hang on your wall or for putting into a scrapbook. Don't you agree?

(© Franz Hanfstaengl, Munich.)

Yugoslavia

Yugoslavia is a country with a coastline along the Adriatic Sea and is opposite Italy. You can see where it is in the small map of Europe.



Marbor

Rijeka

Osijek

Belgrade

To get to know the places in Yugoslavia, take a plane flight through the maze from the capital Belgrade to Osijek, Marbor, Rijeka, Dubrovnik, Bitola and Nis, without crossing a line.

Dubrovnik

Nis

Bitola



The puzzle picture on the left will reveal to you some of the things produced in Yugoslavia. To solve the mystery, carefully shade in with a pencil all the spaces marked with a dot.



The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse

This week: Rex the Wrecker comes to town. By Barbara Hayes.

CRASH! Tinkle! Tinkle! Slop! Slop! Slop! "Whatever is that?" gasped Stephanie, the town mouse, leaping up from her breakfast and rushing towards her front door.

She wrenched the door open and glared out.

"Who is making these dreadful noises so early in the morning?" she shouted.

Then she looked at the little figure standing on her doorstep and she screeched:

"Oh no! NO! I can't bear it!"

And Stephanie tried to slam her front door shut again. But the little boy mouse who was standing there put his foot in the door and wouldn't let Stephanie shut it.

And, of course, as he put his foot in the door he managed to scratch some of the paint.

In case you haven't guessed, the little boy mouse was Rex the Wrecker.

"Good morning, our Stephanie," he grinned, showing his sharp teeth. "That noise you heard was the crash of me knocking over your morning bottles of milk, the tinkle of the glass breaking and the milk running away down the steps."

"Well, you should be looking ashamed of yourself, not standing there grinning," glared Stephanie.

"No!" said Rex the Wrecker in his cheeky way. "You should say you are sorry to me for leaving your milk bottles right where I can trip over them."

"Now look here, little Rexie," said Stephanie. "You may get away with your cheeky talk in the country, but it's no use trying it on me. Go along to my kitchen and get a bucket and pick up all this glass and then get a cloth and a bowl

of water and mop up the milk, and be sharp about it."

Stephanie should have known better. For those of you who have never read about Rex the Wrecker before, he is a little mouse who lives near Winifred, the country mouse, and he breaks everything he touches, trips over anything he passes and generally wrecks everything he goes near. That is how he got the name Rex the Wrecker.

If Stephanie thought she was going to punish Rex by making him clear up the mess he had made, she was to be disappointed. Rex just made a bigger mess than ever.

Scratch! Scratch! Scratch! went the bucket that Rexie was fetching for the glass as he dragged it against the nice wall of Stephanie's hallway.

Gush! Gush! Gush! went the water, as it spilled over the sink where Rexie had left the tap running.

Poor Stephanie!

In the end she just grabbed Rex the Wrecker by the scruff of the neck and threw him out of the house.

"Get out before you do any more damage," she puffed.

Then, with the front door tightly shut, Stephanie opened a window a little way and called out:

"What are you doing here anyway, Rexie? What made you come up from the country to bother—I mean—see—me?"

"Well, my mummy said that she was worried about you," said Rexie. "She thought you might be feeling lonely, living all on your own in the big city. And she thought you might like me to stay with you for a few days to keep you company."

"Your mother must be out of her mind!"

gasped Stephanie. "I would just as soon have a bulldozer come and stay with me! Why, within half a day you would wreck my home and have me in hospital with the shock of it all."

"Now be a good boy—what a hope—and go home and tell mummy that I thank her very much, but I'm not a bit lonely and there's no need for you to stay with me at all."

But Rex the Wrecker still stood looking at Stephanie's door.

"I can't go home," he said. "Mummy has gone to stay with Auntie Emily for a few days and our home is empty. I must stay with you."

"No fear!" snapped Stephanie. "Your mother wanted to get rid of you for a few days and she has dumped you on me. But when she chose me, she chose the wrong person. Just wait there, my lad."

Quickly Stephanie cleared up her home, packed a little case and put on some travelling clothes.

Then she took Rex with her and caught the bus into the country.

"I am going to find out where your Aunt Emily lives and then take you there to find your mummy," said Stephanie. "You see if I don't."

More about the mice next week.

Here are the questions from the Signs of the Zodiac story on page 10. See how many you can get right:

1. What did Eros always carry with him?
2. What was the name of the river?
3. What was the name of the angry giant?



Rose White and Rose Red



1. Once upon a time, in a far away country, there lived an old woman and her two daughters. The two daughters were so lovely that their mother named them after the two most beautiful things in her garden—a red rose bush and a white rose bush. Rose White and Rose Red were very good and kind and helped their mother a lot.



2. They often went for walks in the forest. The little animals of the forest knew that Rose White and Rose Red were sweet and gentle and they used to come and play with them. Rabbits and hares would come and eat from their hands, and there was not an animal or bird in the forest which would harm the two sisters.



3. One cold winter's night, while the mother and her daughters were sitting in the warm kitchen, there came a loud knocking at the door. "Who can that be?" asked Rose White. "Surely there cannot be anyone travelling through the forest on such a snowy night like this." There were more knocks on the door, very loud.



4. Rose White, Rose Red and their mother went to see who it was. You can imagine their surprise when they opened the door and in stepped a huge bear. His woolly coat was covered in snow and he was shivering from the cold. "Please let me in," said the bear. "It's so cold outside and I have nowhere to sleep for the winter."



5. Rose White and Rose Red drew to one side. Truth to tell, they were a little afraid of the enormous bear. But their mother took pity on him and asked him to come inside the house. "You're very welcome to stay here with us," she said. "Our house is no fine palace, but I'm sure that you will find it warm and comfortable."



6. So the tired, cold bear came in and lay down in front of the fire. "How kind of you," he said. "And how pretty your two daughters are—hee, hee, hee! That tickles!" he added, as Rose White and Rose Red got two brooms and brushed the snow from his fur. "Ah yes, now I really am beginning to feel a lot better."



7. Then, Rose White and Rose Red made the bear a bed of straw and told him that he could sleep the night there if he wished. Night after night the big, brown bear came back to the little house to sleep and eat and romp playfully with the two sisters.



8. The cold winter passed, and one day, at the beginning of spring, the bear left the house for good. Rose White and Rose Red were sorry to see him go, for they had grown quite fond of him. They waved goodbye, wondering if the bear would return.

Read and enjoy more of this lovely tale of Rose White and Rose Red next week.



The WISE OLD OWL

Knows all the answers

The Wise Old Owl is here to give you the answers to some interesting and puzzling questions.



1. When were bridges first made of iron?

"The first iron bridge in Great Britain took two years to build and was completed almost 200 years ago, in 1779. It was built by a man called Abraham Darby and crossed the River Severn. 200 feet long and 45 feet high, its delicate ironwork spans were cast in a foundry at Colebrook Dale and make graceful bridge arches."



2. Is an elephant the strongest animal of all?

"Not really, in relation to its size. Many small insects have greater strength compared to the size of their bodies. If you watch a tiny ant you will often see it carrying or pushing things much heavier than itself. An elephant, being the biggest of all land animals, can push over a tree and so appears to be much stronger."



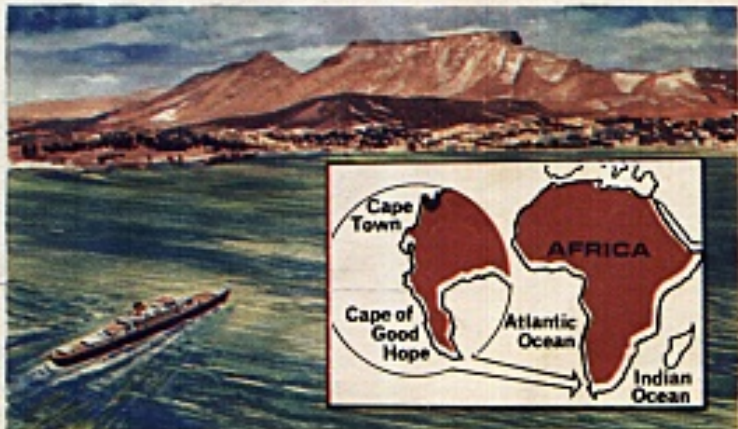
3. What are animals' horns made of?

"The antlers, or horns, of a deer are bones which grow out of its forehead and are covered with hairy skin. They drop off and are grown fresh every year. The horns of a rhinoceros are really growths of skin and are fixed to the bone of its nose. Animals such as cows, sheep and goats have growths made of real horn."



4. Why does the drum of a cement-carrier keep turning?

"These special vehicles carry great loads of ready-mixed concrete and the drum turns slowly to keep it mixed and in a soft state."



5. Where is the Cape of Good Hope?

"South of the famous city of Cape Town in South Africa, with the Atlantic Ocean on one side and the Indian Ocean on the other."